



NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA — A 26 year old McMechen, West Virginia, resident was sentenced on September 11, 2006, in United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia in Wheeling by Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.

Acting United States Attorney Rita R. Valdrini announced that **MICHAEL RUNYON** was sentenced to 46 months imprisonment to be followed by four years of supervised release, pursuant to an earlier entered plea of guilty. **RUNYON** entered a plea of guilty on June 27, 2006, to a one-count Information charging him with transportation of a minor across state lines for sexual purposes. According to evidence presented at the plea hearing, in December of 2004, **RUNYON** arranged to meet a 15 year old Martins Ferry girl with whom he had been corresponding on-line and by phone. **RUNYON** drove to Martins Ferry, picked up the victim at a pre-determined location, and transported her back to West Virginia for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity with her before taking her back to Martins Ferry.

RUNYON, who is currently free on bond, will self-report to the designated federal institution.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Perri. The case was investigated by the United States Attorney's Office Crimes Against Children Task Force, the West Virginia State Police, the Wheeling Police Department, and the Belmont County Children Services.

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